

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

**I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS**

Claims 1-18 were pending in this application when last examined and stand rejected. Claim 1 was objected to.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-12 and 14-18 are amended in a non-narrowing manner to correct formal matters to better conform to U.S. claim form and practice. Such revisions are non-substantive and not intended to narrow the scope of protection. They include: replacing the "characterized by" language with "wherein"; revising the beginning of the claims to recite "A" or "The" and revising the claim language to provide proper antecedent basis throughout the claims. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on any cancelled subject matter.

New dependent claims 19 and 20 have been added to specify "n" as supported by the definition in the disclosure, for

instance, at page 6, lines 8-10, page 7, lines 1-7, and page 8, lines 19-22. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 and 14-20 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

The specification is amended to include appropriate section headings to conform to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note that the above claim amendments are intended to address matters of form only as they are not intended to affect the scope of the claims. Accordingly, it is believed that if the next Office Action on the merits includes a new ground of rejection of one or more claims, the Action must be non-final.

Applicants are submitting the present Amendment without prejudice to the subsequent prosecution of claims to some or all of the subject matter which might be disclaimed by virtue of this response (although none is believed to be), and explicitly reserve the right to pursue some or all of such subject matter, in Divisional or Continuation Applications.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful examination of this case and respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the case, as amended. Below Applicants address the rejections in the Office Action and explain why the rejections are not applicable to the pending claims as amended.

**II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claim 1 was objected to for minor informalities for use of the phrases "on the one hand" and "on the other hand" for the reasons on page 2 of the Office Action.

The present amendment overcomes this objection by replacing the above noted language with proper claim terminology. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

**III. INDEFINITENESS REJECTION**

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons on pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the term "solid laser pump source" is well defined and clear to the skilled artisan. It is well established that definiteness of claim language is analyzed, not in a vacuum, but in light of the teachings of the prior art and of the particular application disclosure as it would be interpreted by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art. In re Moore, 439 F.2d 1232, 169 USPQ 236 (CCPA 1971). See also M.P.E.P., Eighth Ed., Rev. 6 (September 2007) at § 2173.02. The specification (at 4, line 13, and page 5, lines 20-22) clearly discloses that said "solid laser pump source" are solid lasers transmitting a pump luminous flux, such as a semiconductive laser. Based on such

disclosure and the knowledge in the art, it is believed that the skilled artisan would clearly understand the metes and bounds of what is intended by term "solid laser pump source".

Applicants have amended the claims to replace "7,5 m" with the more common term of "7.5 m" as supported by the disclosure, at page 3, line 16.

Applicants have amended the claims to provide proper antecedent basis for "the ABCD propagation matrix" and "the unit."

Applicants respectfully submit that the term "n" in claims 3 and 14 is well defined in the disclosure, for instance, at page 6, lines 8-10, page 7, lines 1-7, and page 8, lines 19-22. At this location, it is disclosed that wherein "n" is the number of passages the vertical plane of the at least one device (8) before exiting through the same path. Thus, the skilled artisan would clearly understand the metes and bounds of this language. See also new claims 19 and 20 that further specify this term.

The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

**IV. ANTICIPATION REJECTION**

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by PRASANKUMAR for the reasons on page 3 of the Office Action.

For the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and not to acquiesce to the rejection, Applicants have claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Thus, the rejection has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

**V. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay F. Williams, Reg. No. 48,036  
209 Madison Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

JFW/jr